

Applicants respectfully note that claim 6 was present on page 11 of the original specification filed on December 4, 1998. As a result, newly added claims 7-27 presented in the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 filed on March 30, 2000, were in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.126.

Response to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has restricted the present invention into the following groups:

- I. Claims 6-14 (old 7-15), drawn to a polymeric product, classified in class 520, subclass 1+.
- II. Claims 15-18 and 23-26 (old 16-19 and 24-27), drawn to a method for absorbing oil and organic solvents from a body of water, classified in class 210, subclass 693.
- III. Claims 19-22 (old 20-23), drawn to a method for making a polymeric product, classified in class 264, subclass 145.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 6-14 (old 7-15) drawn to a polymeric product with traverse.

The polymeric product of Group I, the method for absorbing oil and organic solvents of Group II, and the method for making the polymeric product of Group III are so intimately interrelated that the search of one group would automatically encompass the search

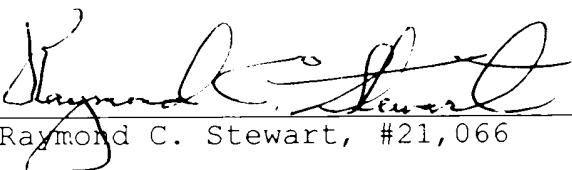
of the other two groups. As a result, no undue burden is placed upon the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejoinder of all the groups of the present invention.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner (Reg. No.42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Raymond C. Stewart, #21,066

RCS/REG/gml
2577-0106P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 04-19-2000)